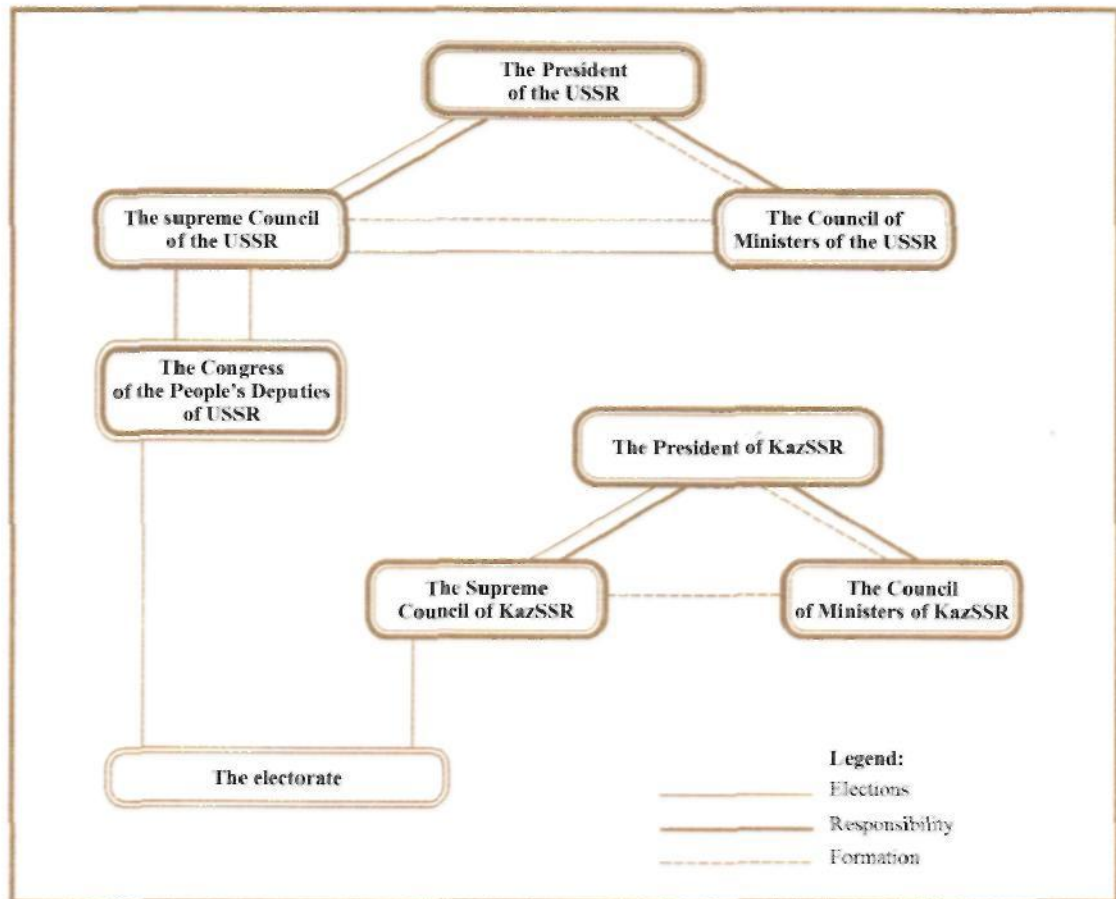
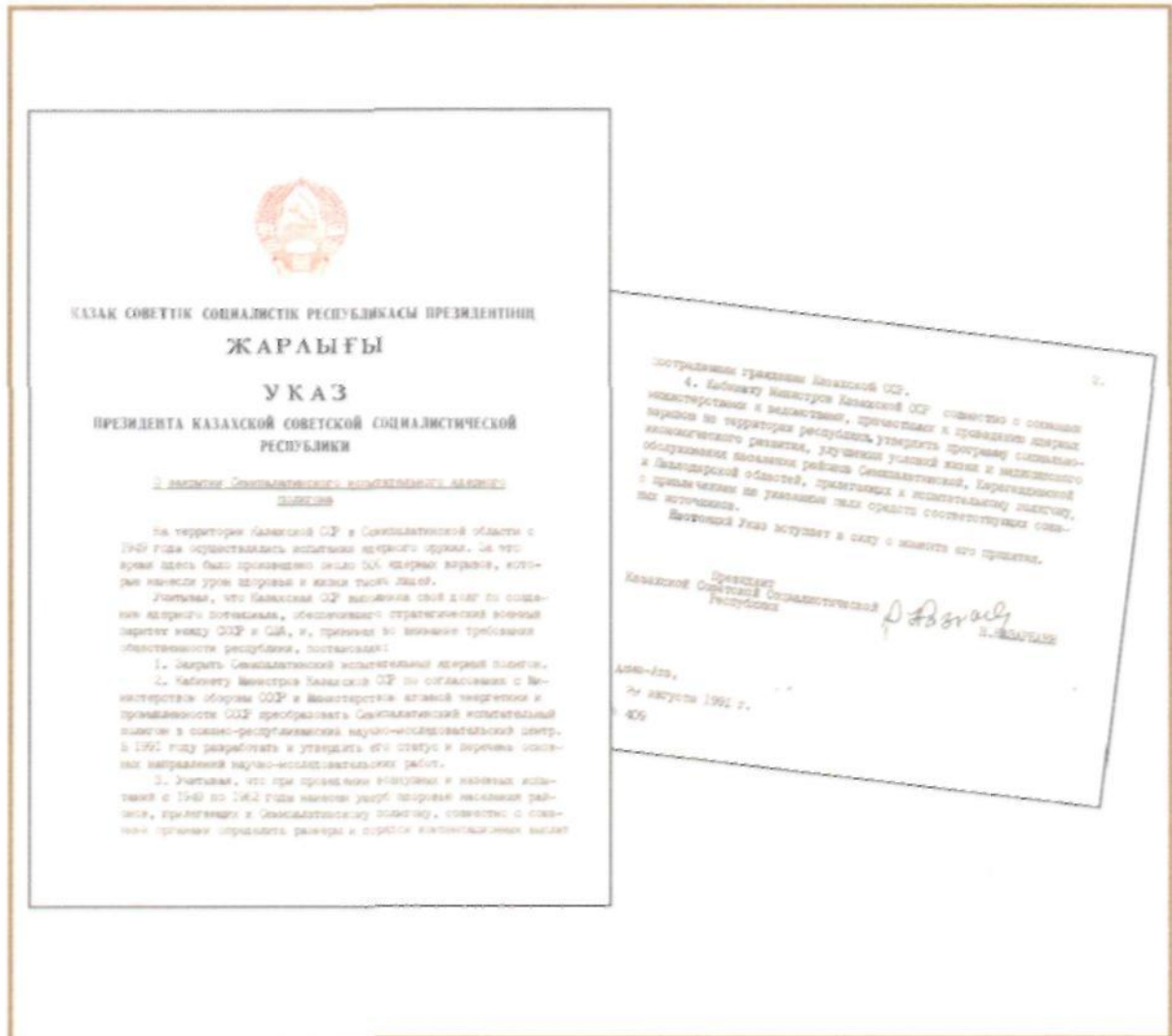


CHANGES IN THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM AFTER GAINING SOVEREIGNTY (November 1990 — December 1991)



The most important characteristics of the political system during this period were as follows:

1. The President acquired extended executive powers.
2. The Government became accountable before the President and the Parliament
3. Democratic institutions were developed in Kazakhstan.



One of the first legislative acts on implementation of sovereignty was the Presidential Decree “On closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing area” on 29 August 1991. Thus, the 40 years of testing of nuclear weapons on Kazakh land were finally at an end.

Kazakhstan declared its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. A nuclear research centre in the town of Kurchatov was preserved but was reoriented for conducting peaceful research. Nowadays, the atom serves only peaceful purposes in Kazakhstan.

Between August and October 1991 major changes took place in Kazakhstan in accordance with presidential decrees on “depolitization” of the prosecutor’s offices, state security and the authorities of the interior, justice and the court; and formation of the State Defense Committee of the Kazakh SSR. All All-Union enterprises were fully transferred to Kazakh government control and the gold reserve and diamond fund of the republic were formed, among other moves.

The election of the President of the Kazakh SSR took place on 1 December 1991 in accordance with the resolution of the Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR of 16 October 1991. On election day, 8 788 726 citizens included in the lists of voters participated in voting. As the result of the election, Nursultan Nazarbayev became the President of the republic; 98,78% of the total number of participants had voted for him.

The elections demonstrated general public support for Nazarbayev’s leadership in the country.

In the national referendum on 29 April 1995 the president’s term in office was extended until December 2000, by 95,4% of votes.

In the early and highly contested presidential election held on 10 January 1999, Nazarbayev received 79,78% of the votes.

At regular presidential elections on 4 December 2005, the incumbent president won 91,15% of the votes.



*At the polling center during the elections of the President of Kazakh SSR,
1 December 1991*

The first national presidential election legitimized President Nursultan Nazarbayev as the first head of sovereign Kazakhstan. After the election, the president announced that from now on Kazakhstan would develop its own independent foreign policy. He emphasized that Kazakhstan would not only focus on the Asian continent, the country would establish a reasonable balance between Europe and Asia. The Republic of Kazakhstan would develop economic and political relations with all countries of the world.



*Nursultan Nazarbayev taking oath as the President of Kazakh SSR,
10 December 1991*



КАВАН НЕЧЕСТКИ СОЦИАЛИСТИ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫ
ЗАНЫ
ЗАКОН
КАЗАХСКОЙ СОВЕТСКОЙ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

О изменении наименования Казахской
Советской Социалистической Республики

Исходя из стремления многонационального народа республики к построению демократического, независимого, миролюбивого, правового государства, основанного на принципах самоопределения, независимости края и свободы человека, политическом, экономическом и юридическом многообразии общества Верховный Совет Казахской ССР **НАСТАВЛЯЕТ:**

1. Переименовать Казахскую Советскую Социалистическую Республику в Республику Казахстан.
2. Внести соответствующие изменения в Конституцию (Основной Закон) Казахской ССР и Декларации о государственном суверенитете Казахской ССР, законы и иные акты государственных органов Казахской ССР.

Президент
Казахской Советской Социалистической
Республики
Н. НАЗАРБАЙЕВ

Алма-Ата, 10 декабря 1991 г.

№ 1000-III

№ 10/12/91

In Minsk on 8 December 1991, the Presidents of Byelorussia, Russia and the Ukraine signed an Agreement on Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This Agreement terminated the authorities of the Soviet institutions on the territory of the CIS.

On 10 December 1991, the Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR enacted the Law "On change of the name of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic." In accordance with this law, the newly independent state was called the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On 16 December 1991, President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed this law. On that day the state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan was proclaimed.



Inauguration ceremony of the President of the Kazakh SSR

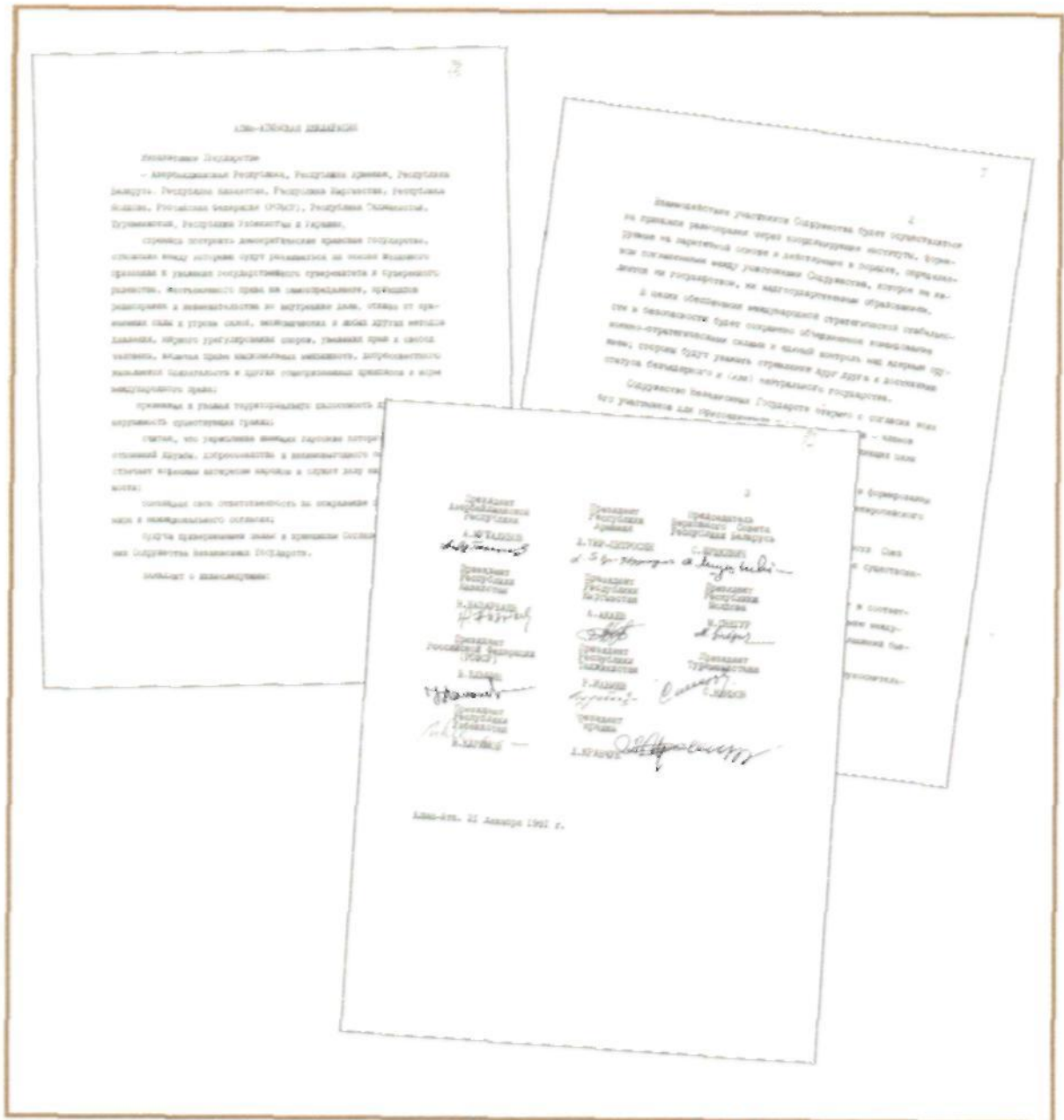


The 8 December 1991 agreement of the three Slavic republics of the USSR — Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia — on the termination of the Union Treaty of 1922, and their intention to create the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), was adopted without consultation with other Union republics. In this complicated environment the leaders of five Central Asian Union Republics — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — met on 12–13 December 1991 in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.



Meeting of the heads of Central Asian states, Ashgabat, 13 December 1991

During the meeting in Ashgabat, President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov suggested creating a Turk confederation with Tajikistan included. Nursultan Nazarbayev suggested declining this idea and in the end the leaders of all five republics agreed with him. It was an important decision as a split along the fault line of "Slavs/Turks" was prevented. The Central Asian republics decided to join the CIS as independent, equal and sovereign states.



In Almaty on 21 December 1991, the leaders of eleven independent states of the former USSR signed the Almaty Declaration on Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). With the creation of the CIS, the USSR ceased its existence.



The Independence Monument at the Square of the Republic in Almaty symbolizes the aspiration of the Kazakh people to freedom.



Source: NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV: Founder of the Independent state (the Chronicles of a Leader) published in Almaty “Rarity” in 2010, pages 57 – 65

Data was given from the Institute of State History, Committee of Science of The Ministry of Education and Science